

Washington, D.C. Congressman Sanford Bishop, a Member of the House Appropriations Committee announced that the fiscal year 2006 Agricultural Appropriations Bill contains more than \$6.8 million in research and conservation programs for Georgia's 2nd Congressional District.

The funding includes: \$3.7 million for the Georgia Soil and Water Commission; \$470,000 for the study of water use efficiency and water quality enhancements at the University of Georgia's Tifton Campus; \$891,000 for research on agricultural water policy at Albany State University and \$508,000 for the study of children's chronic disease at the Children's Nutritional Research Center at Baylor University.

The Agriculture Appropriations Act for FY 2006 (H.R.2744) provides \$100.3 billion in mandatory and discretionary spending for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other related agencies. This includes \$25.7 billion for the Commodity Credit Corporation, \$2.4 billion in rural development programs, \$1.1 billion for agricultural research and \$40.7 billion to fund food stamps. H.R. 2744 represents an 11 percent increase in spending over current funding levels and is \$190 million over the Administration's request.

"This bill funds the crop support programs that are vital to our peanut and cotton farmers. Our agricultural tradition literally forms the backbone of South West Georgia and the Agricultural Appropriations Bill that we passed today goes a long way towards ensuring its continued strength," said Congressman Bishop. "Not only are we expanding our crop and livestock production, but we are taking important steps to protect the environment, by conserving our precious natural resources. This is a bill that we can truly be proud of."

H.R.2477 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 408 to 18 late last night. Once the Senate passes its version of the bill, the House and Senate will meet in conference to resolve differences between their respective recommendations.

Projects included in the Agricultural Appropriations Bill:

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH EXTENSION AND EDUCATION SERVICES

Water Use Efficiency & Water Quality Enhancements, UGA - Tifton:	\$470,000
Fruit and Vegetable Research at UGA - Tifton	\$256,000
Agricultural Water Policy, Albany State University	\$891,000

NRCS - Conservation Operations

GA Soil and Water Conservation Commission Cooperative Agreement	\$3,700,000
Community Nutrient Management Facilities	\$350,000
Game Bird Predation	\$625,000
Study of Chronic Diseases of Children, Children's Nutritional Research Center, Baylor University/Peanut Institute	\$508,000

Total: \$6,800,000